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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historic Preservation to the Rescue of Miami Beach Fire Station

-- Grand Opening of the Architecturally Distinctive Fire Station is June 7 at 6:00 p.m.--

Miami Beach, FL -- After nearly two years of construction, Miami Beach officials celebrate the re-opening of the historically designated Fire Station No. 2 on Thursday, June 7, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at 2300 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach. The historic building now serves as Miami Beach Fire Department's administrative headquarters.

At the event, free and open to the public, visitors will enjoy a display of historic photographs and fire apparatus and receive important information about fire prevention and hurricane preparedness including how to become a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer.

The City of Miami Beach's Office of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) oversaw the \$2 million renovation and reconstruction of the firehouse with approval from Miami Beach's Historic Preservation and Planning boards. Noted Florida architect Robert Law Weed originally designed the fire station during the depression years. STA Architects handled the reconstruction design, creating new interiors and a reconstructed façade, which include architectural details that harkens back to the original design style, but with modern amenities. Edgewater Construction executed construction for the finalized facility.

"Miami Beach continues to meet the challenges of an evolving city while still respecting the unique character of its architecture and historic buildings," said City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez. "There was a need for better administrative offices for our Fire staff, and we achieved the fulfillment of that need by simultaneously protecting and preserving some of that department's history."

The project included selective demolition of aging and damaged parts of the edifice, restoration of the distinctive hose tower and reconfiguring the firehouse dorms and old fire chief's quarters to hold administrative offices and conference rooms. CIP completed the construction of a new state-of-the-art fire station and emergency operations center (EOC) in 2007.

"This new building allows our department to consolidate administrative activities," said Fire Chief Javier Otero. "With new technology integrated within our headquarters, we can better communicate with the field, which enhances the safety of our residents, businesses and visitors."

All fire department services are now under one roof, except for fire prevention and permitting, which remain at City Hall for better customer service.

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We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.